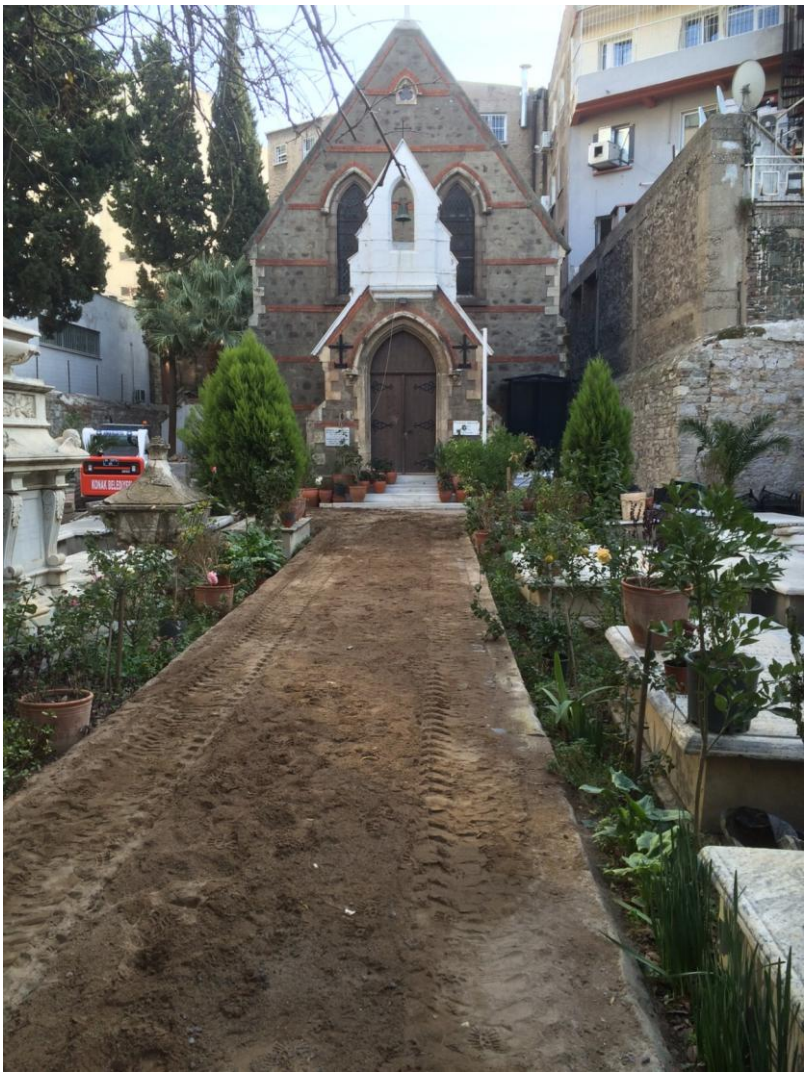
Family, religion and burials in Turkey - Dutilhiteiten no. 38; 1 januari 2006

By Chris, and based on information provided by Hendrik Dutilh

Religion

The first Dutilh who went to Turkey was Jean Jacques, who left Amsterdam in 1786, at the age of 23, to start a new life in Smyrna. He was a grandson of Pierre Dutilh, who fled from Clairac in France at the age of 17 in order to escape from the Catholic threat. It is very likely that Jean Jacques did not go to Smyrna by accident. Smyrna at the time was an important trade centre, where the Dutch played a major role. At the heart of that centre was the Dutch Reformed church, led by a Dutch vicar, who was part of the Amsterdam diocese. At the time Bernard Keun was stationed there, already since 1756. He came to Amsterdam form time to time, and as a consequence his brother Abraham Keun left for Smyrna as well. Abraham married Sara Boddington in 1780, and when Jean Jacques followed, he married Sarah's sister Elisabeth in 1792. When Jean Jacques arrived, Abraham had already died, leaving his wife with one son, Isaac. It is for sure that Jean Jacques has been very close with the Keun family, and maybe he has stayed with Sara the first time after his arrival. Descendants of Jean Jacques remained Protestant until November 7th 1887, when his grandson Maurice married Jenny Marie Pagy, who was a catholic from French origin. At that moment the family-religion changed to Catholic, a development the ancestors would never have dreamt about!

Jean Jacques also was Grandmaitre of the first Masonic Lodge in Turkey which was founded on June 24th 1819. Daniel Pierre his son was the 2nd delegate. There are some documents left about this Lodge, and they were sent some years ago to the family-archive in Rotterdam. Unfortunately at Izmir there are no old family documents left, as they were all burnt during the Smyrna Fire on Sept 11th 1922. Only a Family Bible could be retained, which has also been sent to the family-archive.



the graveyard of the Dutch Chapel

Burials

Until 1935 Dutch Christians were buried at Felemenk Bahçe, a Protestant Dutch Cemetery in Kancesme on the way to Buca and Sogukkuyu (Karsıyaka). Felemenk means Flemish, as the Dutch were known at the time, and Bahçe means garden.



In 1934 the municipality decided that no more burials would take place at Kancesme Cemetery and in place that people would be buried at Pasakopru Cemetery (on the way to the Izmır Adnan Menderes airport) or Sogukkuyu Cemetery (in Karsıyaka). The Archbishop of Izmir, Consuls and Christian Community highly protested but with no results. For that reason, in 1935 many tombs were transferred to Pasakopru and Sogukkuyu and burrials now take place at these cemeteries. 5 members of the Christian Community, including myself, are in charge of supervising the upkeep/security of both cemeteries.

One day, in 1965, a gentleman came to the Consulate and presented himself as High Civil Functionary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He bluntly told me: 'Mr Consul, I will complain about you at the Ministry and ask for your revocation as Consul. This as I went to visit the tomb of my parents at Felemenk Bahce and all I found was (opened) graveyards, broken stones etc.' This gentleman happened to be the son of the last Consul General in Izmir!

My reply was 'I am an honorary Consul, and I am not paid by the Dutch government. As for the Felemenk Bahçe cemetery you better ask The Hague that funds are allocated in this respect.' After some time I got a letter from the ministry asking for suggestions. I replied that the only solution would be to move the tombstones to the graveyard of the Dutch Chapel at Izmir, but this could only be done by night, in view of the Municipality regulations.



Hendrik Dutilh and Claude Caporal at the tomb of their grandfather Maurice Dutilh

After some months a reply came asking me to contact a firm who could do the job. I sent back a quotation, and 3 months later the reply came: "Go Ahead"

The contractor refused to accept and asked for an increase. I decided to tell the contractor to go ahead and informed ministry of my decision. They did not like it! The transfer was made in one night and the tombstones were installed in the graveyard of the Chapel on September 1965.

Other members of the Dutch community (like Maurice Dutilh) were buried at the Bornova (Bournabat) cemetery.

Upon marriage, women take up the nationality of their husband. So became Susanne and Henriëtte Dutilh, both daughters of Jean Jacques Dutilh, British, when they married with James Purdy and John Werry respectively. For that reason the grave of Henriëtte Dutilh family can be found at the "All Saints" church in Buca (Boudjah).

Information reported on in this article, together with lots of other data, obtained through newly acquired contacts all around the world, has allowed to put together a rather complete picture of all descendants of Jean Jacques Dutilh. The

survey, which provides a fascinating picture of recent (family)history, can be obtained from Chris Dutilh (chris@dutilh.com).





Werry tomb in Buca Anglican cemetery